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A G E N D A

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

14 May 1962 - 3:00 p. m.

Item No. 1: Proposed expansion of Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe - Cord Meyer (See attached paper)

Item No. 2: Briefing by Col. J. C. King
(3:30 p. m.)



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Item No. 3: Progress Report - Dr. Scoville

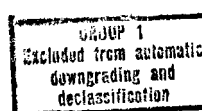


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NOTE: Overtime Policy - Retain, for discussion at a future meeting, Agency overtime notices attached to agenda of 7 May meeting.

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SUBJECT: Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe -
Proposed Expansion

1. Current and proposed U.S. policies require continuous psychological, political and economic pressures against the Soviet Bloc designed to bring about over the long term a liberalization in those regimes which would draw them gradually into postures less dangerous to Western society. Radio Liberty (RL), broadcasting to the Soviet Union, and Radio Free Europe (RFE), broadcasting to the European Satellites, are primary instruments used in furthering these objectives. To achieve greater impact on their listening audience, these radios need more resources in the form of transmitters, antenna modifications, power and people. Such additional resources, as proposed in this memorandum, would improve signal strength, provide for more hours of broadcasting, and make possible better programming. We believe that these resources should be provided these radios for the following reasons:

a. Ferment in the Bloc and in the Communist movement generally appears to be on the increase and provides vulnerabilities and opportunities which we should exploit fully. Realizing the limitations on what can be done, we believe it essential to attempt by all means available to us to influence evolutionary changes in the USSR and in the Satellites in directions favorable to our interests. This is consistent with current U.S. policies, and the proposed policies outlined in the draft of the W. W. Rostow paper, "Basic National Security Policy" dated 26 March 1962.

b. Radio broadcasting is a principal, and in some cases the only, means of Western communication with the closed societies within the heartland of Soviet Communism. RL and RFE have demonstrated that their broadcasts attract large and significant listening audiences in these target areas. We believe that these targets warrant a high priority and that it is in the U.S. interest to increase both the technical and programming impact of these two radios.

c. Worsening propagation conditions because of the sun spot cycle over the next four years, greater use of the broadcast frequency spectrum generally and continued Bloc jamming will reduce the effectiveness of these radios unless their power is increased. The Office of Communications and an independent consulting firm confirm this. It is also borne out by USIA monitoring of Western broadcasts carried out within the Soviet Bloc.

2. The following factors should be considered:

a. Twelve to eighteen months are required to manufacture and install the heavy transmitters and antenna equipment proposed.

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